Oklahoma Chess Monthly

APRIL 2020

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Chess Tournament Cancellations

In This Issue:

- Coronavirus
- OSCO Championship
- Chess from a DISTANCE
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Coronavirus and Cancellations

by Tom Braunlich

The world changed since the last issue of OCM, and few really saw it coming. A month ago there were concerns with the highly-contagious virus on the horizon, but most of us assumed we would muddle through okay.

No one knew the whole world would shut down.

Over-the-board chess shut down with them.

Chess clubs across the state stopped meeting, at first because the venues that hosted them had to close, and later because we all began to practice 'social distancing.' All around the

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world chess tournaments were cancelled as well, including the 2020 Candidates event to select a challenger for Carlsen to play in November, which got half-way through the event before they gave up and postponed the rest.

As of this writing, events through the end of May, at least, have been cancelled or postponed.

Here are some specifics that have been reported for upcoming tournaments in this region:

Oklahoma's OSCO scholastic finals were held on March 7, (see story, page 3) probably the last weekend possible. By March 14 widespread cancellations for all social events spread throughout the country.

The Arkansas and Missouri State Scholastic Championships were all cancelled. Texas' North/Central Scholastic tournament was postponed. They "hope to have it the last weekend in May."

Missouri State University Open
(April 18-19), Springfield MO
CANCELLED

Dallas Chess Club events
According to their calendar, most thru April
CANCELLED

Frank K. Berry Memorial (May 16-17) Tulsa
POSTPONED
We hope to hold it in the Fall.

Two March and April tourneys in Olathe, KS
CANCELLED

OCA Championship (Broken Arrow)
STILL ON tentatively set for June 28-29, but may change.

Kansas Open (July 10-11), Lawrence KS.
STILL ON

Jerry Spann Memorial (July 17-18) OKC
POSTPONED

For any tournament through August that you plan to attend, keep a close eye on it and even if you have not seen a cancellation contact the organizers to confirm if it is still on.

Red River Shootout XVIII:
Scheduled for April 18 in Davis, OK
CANCELLED – But actually, for the RRSO, the inimitable Jim Hollingsworth sent out a press release via his alter-ego stating that the event was declared a 'tie' and therefore as defending champion Oklahoma retains the RRSO trophy and title:

Oklahoma Holds Off Texas for 8th RRSO Victory
By Victor Yaward, Ace Chess Reporter

With a stunning 0-0 score, Oklahoma held off a determined Texas team for an incredible tie in the 18th annual Red River Shoot Out (RRSO). As defending Champions, Oklahoma retains the title, trophy and bragging rights for a whole year. *"To be the Champions, ya' gotta' beat the Champions"* (Frank K. Berry).

"I am so proud of our players for holding the line against a very tough and determined foe," said Oklahoma Team Captain Phil Stegall. *"I was afraid we might have a letdown after winning last year by such a close score (24 to 22)."*

Rookie Texas Team Captain Troy Gillispie assessed his team's performance. *"Despite the final score our team play was outstanding. Every match, from Board One down Board 29, was crucial. I'm especially pleased with our nine rookies. They gained valuable experience. We're going to put all that to work next year. In 2021 it's going to be LOOK OUT OKLAHOMA. HERE COMES TEXAS!"*

Next year's RRSO, the 19th in the series, is scheduled for April 17, 2021, in Davis, Oklahoma. Interested players need to check the website (http://rrsochess.com) for details.

OSCO Scholastic Championships

by Tom Braunlich

If you are an adult player who has never been to one of the highly organized scholastic tournaments, they can seem quite amazing.

The directors need to have their act together to corral the kids, typically 200 or more, into numerous sections of tournament play. And they need to have a big facility to do it in. What helps out is that they don't have set round starting times, and can be flexible with the scheduling of each section, aided by concession stand food available on site.

This year's OSCO championship event was held March 7, 2020, at the Carl Albert High School Fieldhouse, in Midwest City, OK.

The primary titles up for grabs at these events are the slots in the four national events for scholastic players, held annually at the U.S. Open, with one qualifier from each state competing. These events are;

- DENKER Tournament of High School Champions (Grades 10-12, since 1985).
- BARBER Tournament of Middle School Champions (Grades 7-9)
- HARING National Tournament of Girls State Champions. (All Girls)
- ROCKEFELLER National Tournament of Elementary School Champions.

The 2020 Oklahoma results were:

DENKER – Ryan Amburgy (2139) – Ryan had the Denker slot sewn up coming in, based on points from the yearly qualifying tournaments. He did lose this event however to Gabriel Teubner, who won with a 3.5/4 score, including an upset over Amburgy (see Game of the Month).

BARBER - Oscar Wang (1809) - The key game in this section was Oscar's game with his rival Maxwell Xie (1859). See this game annotated on the next page.

HARING - Elizabeth Braddy (1240) - Elizabeth won the coveted slot thanks to an upset of Victorija Zilajeva (1465) last year's winner.

ROCKEFELLER - Kelvin Xie (1557) - Who went 5-0 in this section of 42 players.

TDs were Charles M. Unruh and Mike Swatek, assisted by numerous volunteers and parents.

Left: Overview of the basketball court playing venue. The premier section is on the far side with board 1 at center court.

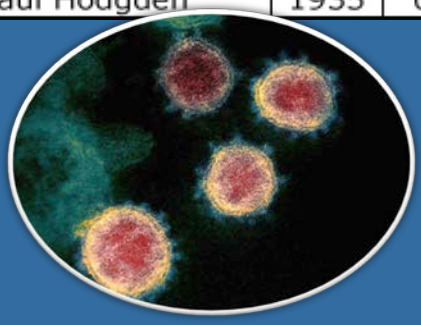
Above: Parents could watch the games either from the seats, or from this view through the picture windows on one side.

TOP 25

For APRIL 2020

Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Jeffrey Haskel	2366	4	
3	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
4	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Mark Hulsey	2199	0	
7	Ryan Amburgy	2133	-6	
8	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2103	-4	
9	Adonis Turner	2084	0	
10	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
11	Tom Patton	2077	0	
12	Veronika Zilajeva	2071	0	
13	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	
14	James Long	2053	0	
15	Michael Nugent	2042	0	▲
16	Charles M Unruh	2033	0	▲
17	Matt Dalthorp	2029	0	▼
18	David Luscomb	2026	-19	▼
19	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
20	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
21	Logan Zachare	1984	4	
22	Joe Dean Veal	1961	2	
23	Stephen Gehly	1958	0	
24	Charles Woodall	1937	0	
25	Paul Hodgden	1935	0	



Player of the Month

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

The virus single-handedly led the Oklahoma team to a draw with Texas at RRSO18. Sooners to retain the trophy. (See page 2).

Xie, Maxwell (1834)
Wang, Oscar (1809) [B38]
2020 OSCO Champs, OKC, (4), 07.03.2020
[Notes by TB]

The key game in the premier junior-high tournament which determined the "Barber" representative for Oklahoma.

Oscar Wang (L) vs. Maxwell Xie

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 d6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Be2 0-0 9.f3 Bd7 10.Qd2 a5 11.0-0 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bc6 13.Nd5 Nd7 14.Rac1 e6 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Nf4

[16.Qd4+ e5 17.Qe3 Nc5 is fine for black.]

16...Nc5 17.Kh1 Qe7 18.Rfd1 Rfd8 19.Qe3 Rab8!? 20.Qc3+ e5 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.cxd5 Na4!? 23.Qa3

[23.Qxa5 Nxb2 24.Rc7 Ra8 I think was Oscar's idea here. But 25.Qb6 would have forced Oscar to find a couple accurate moves in a row to hold the balance: 25...Na4 26.Qxb7 Qf8! when black has compensation for the missing pawn.

Instead Maxwell selects a different approach that aims to get in a quick b2-b4 and tries to cramp black on the queenside. This is also testing, but Oscar is up to it.]

23...Nc5 24.Qxa5 Ra8 25.Qb5 Rxa2 26.Bc4 Raa8!

[The solid-looking but passive move 26...Ra7 27.b4 Nd7 28.Bd3 threatening Rc7 would have forced black to play ...b6, a positional concession weakening c6.]

27.b4 Na6 28.Bb3

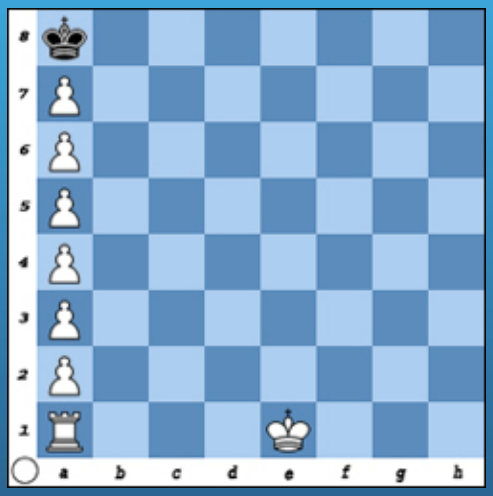
[28.Qb6 intending Bxa6, is met by 28...Qc7=]

28...Rdc8 29.Rc4 Rc7 30.Rdc1 Rac8

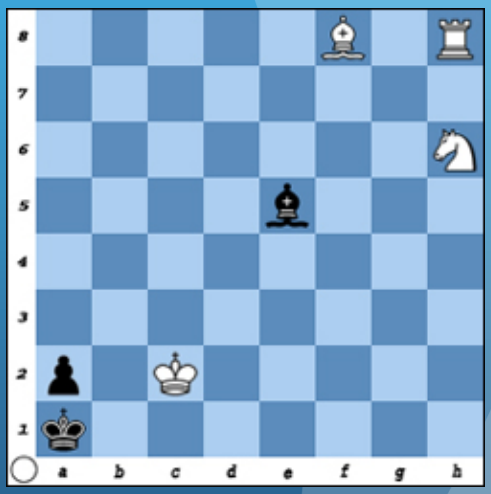
Oscar has managed to create a situation where

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and MATE in 8.
(Easy) W. Shinkman 1887



White to move and MATE in 3.
(Difficult)

black's possibilities for back rank mate gives him tactical chances. Maxwell's next move is meant to deal with that, but gets him into new troubles on the a7-g1 diagonal.
31.Kg1

31... Qg5! 32.Kf1
[32.Rxc7 Nxc7 33.Qc4 Qe3+ 34.Kf1 Ra8! 35.Qxc7 Qxb3 and white's exposed king would have been in trouble. 36.Qc3 would seem to be forced then, and 36...Ra3 37.Qxb3 Rxb3 38.Rc4 Rb2 with an endgame edge for black.]
32...Qe3! 33.R1c3 Qd2 34.Rxc7 Rxc7 35.Rxc7 Nxc7 36.Qc4
[Maxwell's problem is that he cannot keep the black knight from sneaking in on the weak dark squares for a serious attack on the white king. For example: 36.Qxb7 Qd3+ 37.Kf2 Nb5! and the N is coming to d4 or c3 with what looks like a winning attack.]
36...Na6 37.b5 Nc5 38.Ba4? Nd3 0-1

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) After 1. 0-0-0!! All black's moves are forced as he marches across the board to be mated: 1. …Kxa7 2. Rd8! Kxa6 3. Rd7 Kxa5 4. Rd6 Kxa4 5. Rd5 Kxa3 6. Rd4 Kxa2 7. Rd3, Ka1 8. Ra3 mate.

(2) 1. Nf5 (threatening Rh1)
1…Bxh8 (if 1…Bh2 2. Bg7+)
2. Ng7! Bxg7 (only move!)
3. Bxg7 mate

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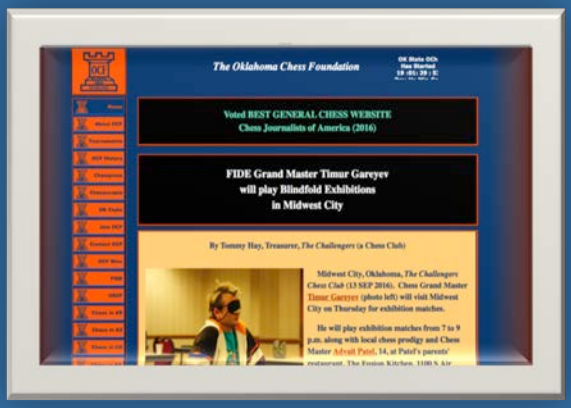
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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… and more

ICC Membership Discount

OCF members and actually any visitor to our website — www.ocfchess.org — can now get a discount to the ICC (Internet Chess Club) where you can play online chess and much more. Click on the link on our website to get the discount. (See also the story next page…)

Texas Chess Elections News

OCF Webmaster Jim Hollingsworth is running for TCA Vice President. More at: http://jdoube.com/hollingsworth.html

FIDE IA/IO Franc Guadalupe is running for TCA President. More at: http://jdoube.com/guadalupe.html

REVIEW: ZMF TAP N SET CLOCK

Chess Clock Settable with Smart Phone App.
"The Official Clock of U.S. Chess"

USChess is officially endorsing this new digital clock that can be set using a free smart phone app, available from the App Store or Google Play. It is normally priced inexpensively at $49.95, the same as the popular DGT North American clock, but less than Chronos. With the discounts available often from USCF's Store, you can get it for $45 or less, a good value.

The description emphasizes that it is "truly the easiest chess clock to use!" and this is true, with a few caveats.

The App interface you can use should be more intuitive than the esoteric commands we all have to learn in order to set the other clocks. The large LCD screen on your phone is also easier to see and manipulate when setting time controls.

You can pre-set a large number of "favorite" settings (dozens, as compared to a few as in other clocks). And it is easier to handle unusual "complex" settings with which you may not be familiar.

However, I say it "should" be able to do this, because I couldn't test it. When I went to the App store to search for the app, it couldn't be found. All I could find was a Pre-View on the app store. Still, Chuck Unruh, who gave me a review copy of the clock, showed me how it worked, and it is simple. If you have difficulty remembering how to set your other digital clock, this will be easier.

However, there are a few caveats. Although it is easier, it isn't necessarily faster. They make it sound magical, you just tap your phone on the clock (as shown in the picture) and voila', it is set. But actually, you have to set the clock first using the app, and then tap it; and the process is not any faster than on a normal clock if you know it well.

Also, since smart phones are banned at many tournaments nowadays, this also means that if adjustments to the clock have to be made during a tournament game — such as the TD wants to impose a 2-minute penalty — you must learn the backup way of setting your TAP N SET clock *manually*. So, you aren't necessarily spared that aggravation. You might have to carry the instruction book with you to the tournament in case needed.

Still, the clock's advantages outweigh these considerations — especially if you are familiar with the use of smart phone apps.

RECOMMENDED!

(Note: Requires IOS 13 or later.)

CHESS FROM A DISTANCE

You Want to Play Chess in a Socially Distant World? Here's How.

By Chris Walker and Tom Braunlich

The experts are now saying that the insidious Coronavirus-Chinese Flu-Covid-19 pandemic may require 'social distancing' throughout at least April before we can come out of our hiding holes.

So how are we going to get our chess fix during this time of isolation?

Playing against your silicon monster just doesn't cut it.

Well, one of the advantages of chess as a *sport* is that it works well over the Internet, where you can play with your friends without the risk of them sneezing on you.

But how do you do it? There are many ways, and different levels of human interaction, from abstract online play to virtual reality. We will look at:

- Online Chess
- Online Streaming

But this article will focus mainly on:

- Virtual Reality Online Chess – The Real Deal for your Chess Fix — *by Chris Walker*

Online Chess

Most of us are familiar playing on Internet sites where you use a simple 2D interface on screen to play games with others. There are many of these. Three of the most popular ones are:

ICC (Internet Chess Club) https://www.chessclub.com

CHESS.COM https://www.chess.com

CHESS24 https://chess24.com/en

Pros

These sites are simple to set up on your computer and to play. You can play games at any time, or watch top players go at it. They also all offer training videos, live coverage of top events, computer database support, and other nice features. Some of them offer USCF-rated games and tourneys, but usually fairly fast 'rapid' time controls like G/15+5). You can play your friends.

Cons

1. It is only two-dimensional.
2. Most require a monthly membership fee. (There are however several that are free, but with fewer features, such as LiChess (https://lichess.org)
3. The biggest drawback is that typically players only want to play blitz (5 minutes or 3/2) or bullet (1 minute). Arranging slow-play games of 30 minutes or more is doable, but difficult.

Online Streaming

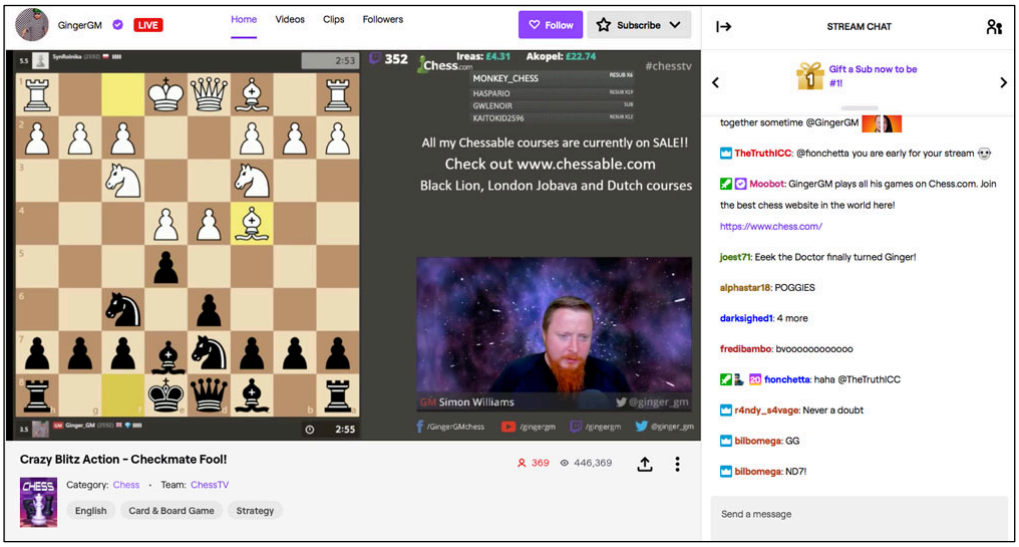
Another way to get your chess fix is to spectate live video "streaming" chess on TWITCH. (https://www.twitch.tv/directory/game/Chess) This is another interactive service. At any time you can go here and watch different kinds of live chess shows, produced by chess masters of various levels up to top GMs. Hikaru Nakamura frequently is on here, and gets a big audience.

Streamers earn money with ads, based on the number of viewers they have, which can range from a few to thousands. (So you do sometimes have to endure a 30-second ad, but not often).

Chat – in all cases the stream allows you to interact with the streamer by asking questions in a chat window. It's pretty cool when Nakamura or some other GM answers your questions!

Often live coverage of major events like the Candidates tournaments can also be viewed here.

Drawback — You don't get to actually play. You are just a spectator.



Screen capture of GM Simon Williams playing live on Twitch. Chat window at right.

Virtual Reality Chess by Chris Walker

Online play doesn't have to be two-dimensional. It is now possible to play a friend through the Internet, but to have the 'look and feel' of three-dimensions! It's called 'Virtual Reality' and works well with chess, as well as other games. Chris Walker did this introduction for us:

My name is Chris Walker, and I'm a Gen X'er, so I grew up during the early days of video games, so I think of 'VR' (virtual reality) games as an extension of video games. Like those old fashioned games, to play VR requires a special 'Controller' piece of equipment, as you would have with an old Nintendo or Playstation. But in the case of VR, what you need is a VR headset and two handheld controllers (see photo).

Through your headset you will be transported into another realm, a three-dimensional place where you can turn your head back and forth, up and down, to look all around you and see the entire environment, whatever that is. In some places you seem to be on stage like at a world championship match. At others you are in a beautiful private living room with nice scenery outside the windows. You can be anywhere, inside or out.

In front of you are a chessboard - and an opponent.

If you are playing a single-player game, the opponent is run by the computer, and might appear as anything: a human, or a literary character, or the Grim Reaper.

If you are playing a multi-player game, however, the opponent is run by one of your friends, and you are playing him through the Internet. He is also wearing a headset and hand controllers, and is seeing the same scene as you are.

He appears to you as a ghostly three-dimensional apparition on the other side of the board. (See photo below…)

You can see his head and his hands move, and you can converse with him in live audio. Of course, this 2D photo image does not do justice to the 3D experience, which is a full environment.

In all these games you aren't using your computer keyboard. You use the controllers. VR headsets are the accessory that allows players to jump into this 3D world that feels much more immersive. What 3D glasses do for 3D movies is what VR headsets do for video games that allow VR support.

When you make a move you actually extend your hand and 'grab' (using the controller) the piece you want to move and set it down on the new square. It feels realistic.

I am truly amazed by how chess has become so much more mainstreamed today. With the introduction of the World Wide Web along with streaming companies like Twitch and Mixer, chess has received a serious cultural upgrade from the days of my youth. There has been so many amazing computer advancements that make you question whether this is a video game or real life…

… and this is the case with VR chess.

For example, to get a 'taste' of what VR chess is like, check out this demonstration video on YouTube for *Chess Ultra:*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=8zTI8v66MNk

Chess Ultra is by far the best-looking chess VR video game on the market today in my opinion. However the Grim Reaper is the only visual character that you can play against in this one map/board option. Personally I am not a fan of the board used in this map. Squares can be hard to tell which color is which. The environment is awesome along with the Grim Reaper though. I actually contacted Rip Stone who made Chess Ultra and gave a suggestion of getting models of

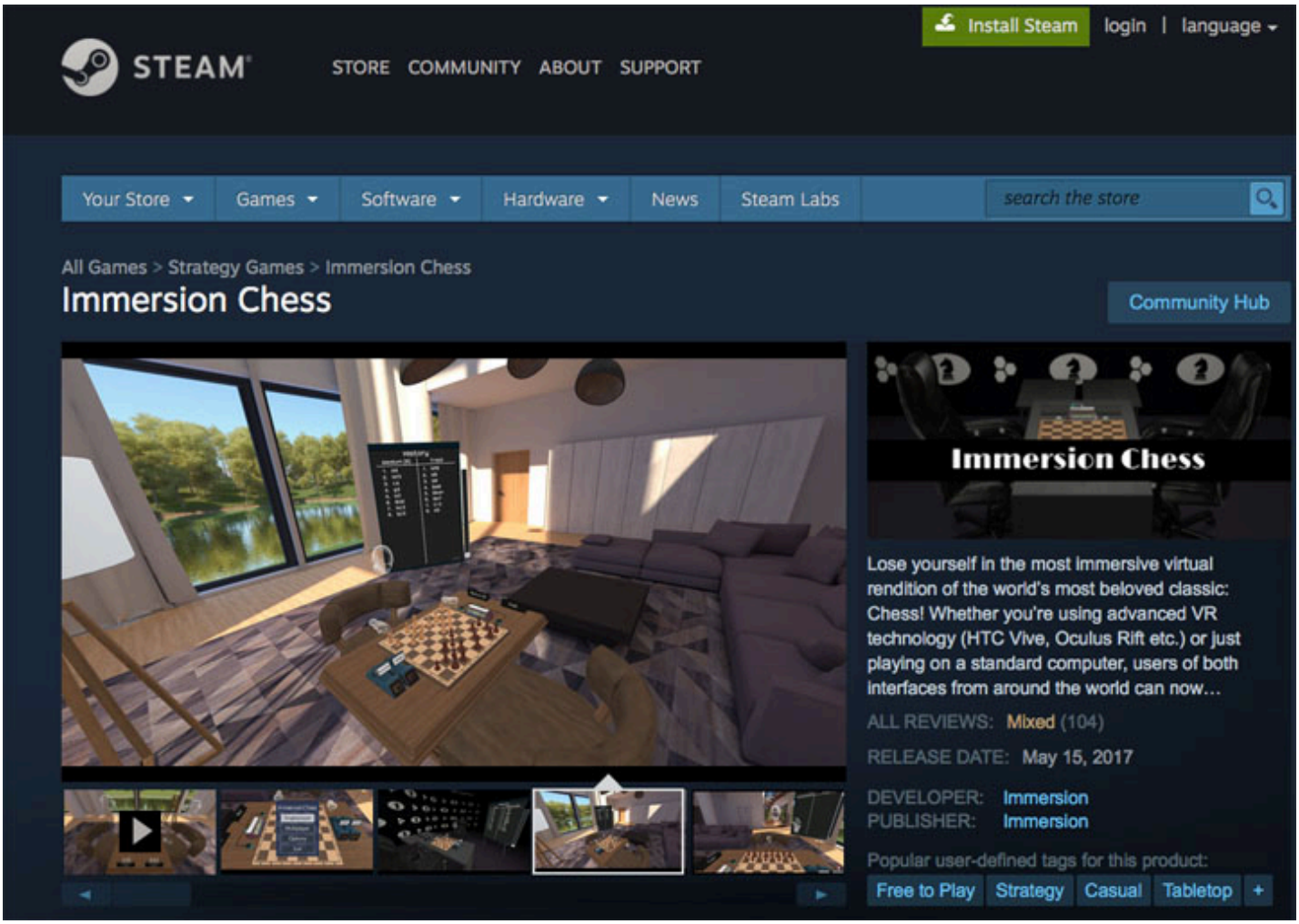
actual Grandmasters and using them to play against in other maps for VR gameplay. The suggestion was thanked and that was about as far as it went; which is understandable. Making video games in a multi-million dollar endeavor.

Chess Ultra is a pay game (one time payment) but there are some good free options for chess VR games.

IMMERSION CHESS (free single- and multi-player 3D virtual chess play)

https://store.steampowered.com/app/631660/Immersion_Chess/

This is available for download on STEAM. Watch the demo video there.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Lose yourself in the most immersive virtual rendition of the world's most beloved classic: Chess! Whether you're using advanced VR technology (HTC Vive, Oculus Rift etc.) or just playing on a standard computer, users of both interfaces from around the world can now...
ALL REVIEWS: Mixed (104)
RELEASE DATE: May 15, 2017
DEVELOPER: Immersion
PUBLISHER: Immersion
Popular user-defined tags for this product:
Free to Play
Strategy
Casual
Tabletop
+

MAGIC CHESS TABLE is another option

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6cTUywlNzc

This one has the best-looking pieces. I like that you can play with a Dubrovnik style set. Not many chess video games offer a set like that to play with. It is usually a standard generic Staunton set.

There are many more options for free and pay VR chess games on the market. Check into Steam if you are interested in VR supported chess games. Use this link:
https://store.steampowered.com/search/?term=chess&vrsupport=101%2C102%2C402

VR EQUIPMENT

The drawback to VR chess games is that special equipment is needed. Although the IMMERSION CHESS program is free, and some of the others in the above list are inexpensive, the HEADSET and HAND CONTROLLERS are costly.

So for most of us, the decision to invest in VR equipment should be based on the fact you can use them for many other VR programs as well, besides chess.

There are many VR action games, for example, that are fantastic to play, such as *Half-Life: Alyx* (one of the most popular ones available on Steam).
https://store.steampowered.com/app/546560/HalfLife_Alyx/

The visual power of these games wearing the headset in an immersive 3D environment is tremendous, and it is the wave of the future; so an investment now in a system could be worthwhile from that standpoint, and allow 3D Chess as well.

EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

I'm not comfortable with making specific recommendations, but if you are interested here is an article on the 8 best choices by *PC Magazine*, which range from $150 to $700, and discusses the general subject and system requirements, and software needs:
https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-vr-headsets

Steam also has a one-stop shop for VR equipment that it sells:
https://store.steampowered.com/valveindex

Human Opponents

The most fun, of course, is playing VR chess with a friend in a game like IMMERSION CHESS, via the Internet. That will definitely quench your chess thirst. Right now, as I said, you see a ghostly image of your opponent. Perhaps someday it will scan the players and show a live 3D image of your opponent in the 3D environment!

I hope you enjoyed a brief look into chess in video games and how VR is giving a unique visual experience of playing chess. I know that I enjoyed remembering fond memories of my youth with chess and video games.

Amburgy, Ryan (2139)
Teubner, Gabriel (1455) [A44]
2020 OSCO Champs, OKC, (3), 07.03.2020 *[TB]*

Amburgy (L) vs Teubner on center stage.

This was the key game of the OSCO annual championship in the premier section for high school age players. After this upset result, Gabe said, "He just made a mistake and I took advantage of it." This bit of modesty belies a well-played game by Teubner, who went on to win the tournament.

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.Nc3 a6 [3...d6 is normal, but this move leads only to a move order transposition.] 4.a4 d6 5.e4 f5?!

[This has been played before, but is not to be recommended due to weakening of the light squares. The two main lines involve either 5...g6 (intending to support ...f5 later after finishing development), or; 5...Be7 which was the main line when I was Gabe's age -- intending ...Bg5 soon to trade off the 'bad' dark bishop.]

6.exf5 Bxf5 7.Bd3!

Not only does this seek a favorable trade of light bishops, but also it wins a tempo.

7...Bxd3 8.Qxd3

White is clearly better here, with two pieces developed and weak squares on e6 and f5 for him to target later.

8...Nf6 9.Bg5?!

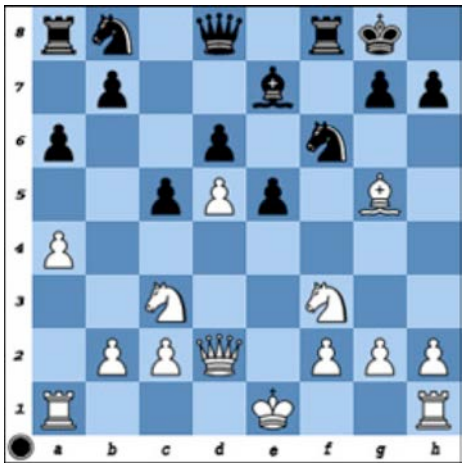
[Joe Veal in the skittles room discussion after the game was adamant in pointing out this was a mistake, and that 9.Nf3 was correct, aiming to immediately target e6 with ideas of Ng5. He was absolutely right. For example: 9...Be7 10.Ng5 Qc8!? *(10...0-0 11.Ne6* wins the exchange.*)* 11.Ne6 c4 *(11...Nc6!? 12.dxc6 Qxe6 13.cxb7 Rb8 14.Qxa6+-)* 12.Qg3 is winning for white. Ryan's move doesn't necessarily ruin his advantage, but the B is on the wrong square and leads to a bigger mistake later.]

9...Be7 10.Nf3

[My suggestion in the post-mortem was 10.Nge2 to create a development scheme that fits better with the Bg5 move. In that case 10...0-0 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Ng3 still maintains an edge for white.]

10...0-0 11.Qd2?

[This is the main mistake. Having misplaced the B on g5, I think white should 'make the best of it' by exchanging it off immediately and getting it out of the way. 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Ne4 Here white still has domination of the light squares, and in the long run a knight will eventually go through g5 to e6. White can delay castling a move or two to see what black does, and consider playing the aggressive plan of 0-0-0, h2-h4, and Nf-g5, attacking h7 and e6. Or he can just castle kingside with a solid edge.]



11...e4!

From now on Gabe plays a strong game and makes the best of the chance given him.

12.Nh4

[12.Ng1 is the only move, but no carbon-based life form would play a move like that.]

12...Ng4!

This double-attack on f2 and g5, combined with white's loose knight on h4, is deadly.

13.Nxe4 h6 [13...Nxf2!]

14.Ng6

[14.Qe2 Bxg5 15.Qxg4 Bxh4 also wins a piece.]

14...Bxg5 15.Qe2

[15.Nxg5 Rxf2! is crushing.]

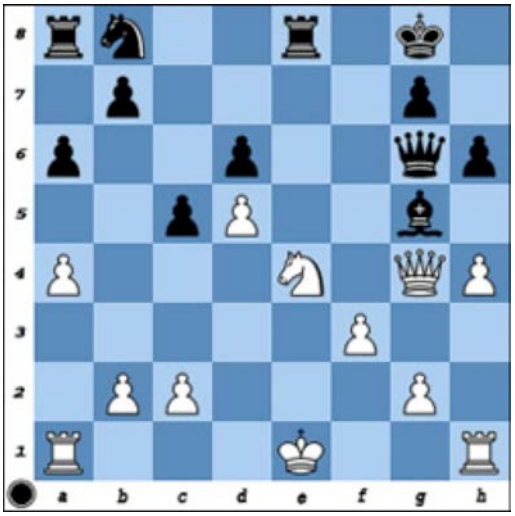
15...Re8 Introducing a new pin.

16.Qxg4 Qf6

Winning a piece, as the white knight is trapped.

17.h4 Qxg6 18.f3

Is white winning his piece back after all?



18...Bd2+! Nice.

19.Kxd2 Qxg4 20.fxg4 Rxe4

A piece up, black is winning. Gabe's technique from here out is also noteworthy.

21.Rhe1 Rd4+! 22.Kc3 Nd7 23.Re7 Ne5 24.Rxb7

Gabe correctly offered the pawn to complete his development and now he has a strong initiative.

24...Rxg4 25.b3 Rf8 26.Rb6 Rf2 27.Rxd6 Rg3+ 28.Kb2 Rgxg2 29.Rb6 Rxc2+ 30.Ka3 Rc3

[Cleverly threatening ...Nc4 mate. Also winning is 30...Nd3 with the idea of ...Nb4 and ...Ra2#]

31.Rb8+ Kh7 32.a5 Nc4+ 33.Ka4 Rg4 34.Ra2 Nb6+ 35.Ka3 Nxd5 36.Rd2 Nb4 37.h5

Ryan cleverly tries one last idea, to try to arrange a stalemate, but it doesn't quite work.

37...Rg5 38.Rb2 Rg1 39.Rb1 Rxb1 40.Rh8+ Kxh8

White has Ka4; no stalemate.

Very nice game by Gabriel Teubner, who rose his rating a remarkable 200 points in this 4-round event, and now is at 1700.

0-1

The players (2nd and 3rd from the left) discussing the game in the skittles area, with the usual suspects kibitzing.

From the Whitcomb Memorial

Wesson, Rafael (1565)
Szabad, Istvan (1465) [C01]
Whitcomb Memorial (3.1), 29.02.2020 *[TB]*
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.e3 Bb4+ 4.Nc3 exd4 5.exd4 d5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Bg5 0-0 8.cxd5 Qe8+ 9.Qe2 Nxd5 10.Rc1 Nc6 11.a3 Nxd4 12.Qxe8 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Rfxe8+ 15.Kd2 Bxf3-+ 16.Rg1 f6 17.Rg3 Bh5
[17...fxg5 18.Rxf3 Rf8-+]
18.Bc4 Bf7 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.Bxf6 g6 21.c4 Bc6 22.h4 Rf8 23.Bd4 Rad8 24.Kc3 Rf4 25.Bxa7 Rxh4 [25...b6 26.c5 b5!-+]
26.Be3 Ra8 27.Kb3 Ba4+ 28.Kc3 b5 29.c5 Rd8 30.Kb2 Rd3 31.Bf4 Rd7 32.Be3 c6 33.Re1 Rc4 34.Bh6 Rd8 35.Rc3 Rh4? 36.Bg5 Rdd4 37.Bxh4 Rxh4 White won. 1-0

Li, Benjamin (1500)
Xie, Kelvin (1557) [B70]
Whitcomb Memorial (3.5), 29.02.2020 *[TB]*
The two talented kids trade punches in a tough fight:
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 **5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.Qd2 0-0 8.0-0-0 Nc6 9.f3**
[9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.e5! is critical. Black can sac a pawn for good compensation with 10...Nd5 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.exd6 Rb8 13.c3 Qxd6 14.Qxd5 Bxc3!?]
9...Nxe4?!
[9...Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be6 threatening ...Nd5 is thought to be fine for black.]
10.Nxe4!?
[White can continue the 'desperado' combination: 10.Nxc6 Nxd2 11.Nxd8 Nxf1 12.Nd5 Both knights are trapped but white will get the e7 pawn as well and have a better endgame.]
10...Nxd4 11.Bh6 Bxh6 12.Qxh6 Nf5 13.Qf4 Qb6 14.Re1 Kg7 15.g4 Nd4 16.h4 Be6
[16...f5!-+]
17.Nc3 Rac8 18.Rd1 Nc6 19.h5 Kg8? [
19...Rh8!? was the best chance. Now the tables turn.]
20.Qh6 Nb4 21.hxg6 Nxa2+ 22.Nxa2 Rxc2+
The only chance, but not enough. White is able to trade the queens.
23.Kxc2 Qb3+ 24.Kd2 Qxb2+ 25.Ke1 Rc8 26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.Qh8+ Qxh8 28.Rxh8+ Kg7 29.Rxc8 Bxc8 30.gxf7 Kxf7 31.Bc4+ 1-0

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

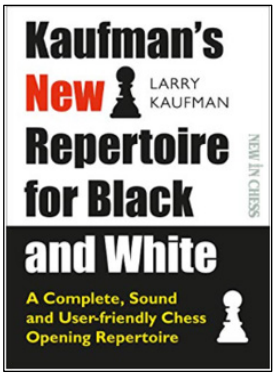
For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS THROUGH AT LEAST THE END OF MAY HAVE BEEN EITHER CANCELLED OR POSTPONED, AND JUNE/JULY PLANNED EVENTS (many of which have not been advertised yet) ARE IN QUESTION.

SEE STORY, PAGE 1-2.

The giant wooden Staunton-style chess set at the downtown Marriott Hotel in Dallas TX, on N. Pearl Street.

Submitted by Jimmy Nazario of Lawton (pictured), who asked if it would be legal to use in the next RRSO event. Chief TD Jim Hollingsworth said, "Yes, but there may be some time trouble issues late in the game."



By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:

Kaufman's New Repertoire for Black and White

(2019, www.newinchess.com, 456 pages, $32.95) by GM Larry Kaufman

Keep it Simple 1.d4

(2019, www.newinchess.com, 425 pages, $29.95)
by IM Christof Sielecki

These two new opening repertoire books by New in Chess are both first-rate opening repertoire books that frequently recommend lines in which the strategic goal, when possible, is the acquisition of the bishop pair. Beyond this aim the two books are quite different.

This is the third edition of Kaufman's opening repertoire and the second published by New in Chess. The present work is considerably changed since the previous one although it continues to offer an opening repertoire for both White and Black and not just one color, which is standard practice. While the use of computer engines to evaluate opening lines has become the norm today, Kaufmann is particularly noted for his expertise in this field, especially for his work with Komodo. The analysis given in *Kaufman's New Repertoire for Black and White* is based on work done with a high-powered computer especially built to the author's specifications.

The biggest change compared to the previous edition is the author's return to advocating 1.e4 over 1.d4.

Kaufmann offers both a primary White opening repertoire as well as some interesting and topical sidelines. The main lines are:

1.e4 e5 Ruy Lopez with 6.d3.

Sicilian – 2…Nc6/ 2…d6 3.Bb5+/3.Bb5, 2…e6 3.c3

Caro-Kann – 2.Nc3/3.Nf3

French – 3.Nd2

For Black things are a more complicated. While the Gruenfeld is the proposed answer to 1.d4, no less than three defenses to the Ruy Lopez: the Breyer (9…Nb8), Marshall (8…d5) and Moller (5…Bc5) are offered. The English is met by 1…c5 with 2…Nf6 and 3…d5 and 1…Nf6, 2…g6 and 3…d5. Answers to the London System, Veresov (1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 h6 – two bishops please!), 1.b3, 1.b4 and 1.f4 are also given.

Kaufmann organizes his material around model games with the vast majority from the past decade. There are many notes but they tend to be of a theoretical nature. While there is some explanatory prose this is definitely a book for players 2200 and above and those who aspire to become masters.

This is not surprising as while the author packs a lot of material into this book, he is also covering a lot of ground - books this length on just a single opening are not uncommon. The openings that are advocated, especially with Black against the Ruy Lopez, are

those used by World Championship level players and not often seen at the club level.

This book offers a particularly good value as it provides a complete repertoire for both Black and White.

German International Master Christopher Sielecki's *Keep It Simple-1.e4* received critical acclaim, as it should. The rare opening repertoire book that knew its audience well, it checked all the boxes. The author chose variations that had some bite to them but weren't unsound, were not overly complicated (strategically or theoretically) and which were consistent in their aims throughout (i.e. White was not playing like a mad dog attacker in one line and super positionally in another).

The sequel, *Keep It Simple- 1.d4* is a worthy follow-up with the author achieving the near impossible in carving out a cohesive repertoire based on 1.d4 2.Nf3 and 3.g3 against all but a handful of Black replies. Sielecki does this by having White play highly theoretical openings like the Catalan and Grunfeld, but sidestepping the sharpest lines by delaying c4.

The most amazing magic trick in *Keep It Simple- 1.d4* is how the author makes the Slav and Queen's Gambit Accepted disappear – namely by adopting the sequence 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3. This sequence does not have a reputation for posing any danger for Black as the queen bishop is not locked in with …e6 and can be developed to g4 or f5. The setup against ….Bf5, where White plays for e4 with 1.d4 2.Nf3 3.g3 4.Bg2 5.0-0 6.c4 7.Nc3 8.Nd2 and 9.e4, does not have a great track record. So what can White do?

Sielecki, from the ground up, has developed a variation where White plays 1.d4 2.Nf3 3.g3 4.Bg2 5.c4 and 6.Nc3 followed by Qb3 that is full of subtle nuances. White does not castle early as after …Qb6 and an exchange of queen's his king is better placed in the center. Another reason for delaying castling is that after White plays Qb3 and Black answers …Qb6 and White follows up with c5 the move …Qa6 can be sometimes met by the surprising Bf1! There are few games with this system so it is too early to know if the efforts to sidestep the Slav and Queen's Gambit Accepted are worth the effort, but congratulations to Sielecki for his hard work and originality.

This reviewer gives two thumbs up for *Keep It Simple- 1.d4*, but with reservations concerning its intended audience. On the back cover the publisher's blurb says the book is appropriate for players from 1500 on up. I do not agree. Much of the subtle play that is required here will pass right over the heads of most players below 2200 who will be better served by first learning the principles of opening play by starting with 1.e4 and gambit play and then moving on to more mainstream systems based on occupying the center with 1.e4 or 1.d4. Only when this basic foundation is established does it make sense to branch out with 1.c4, 1.Nf3 or the sort of repertoire Sielecki proposes.

Keep It Simple- 1.d4 is full of interesting variations and ideas for players rated 2200 on up who are looking for a positionally-oriented repertoire that is not overly theoretical. Those who open 1.Nf3 and 2.g3 will also find much food for thought, as will those who are just looking for lines to play against the Dutch or a concise guide to playing the main lines of the Catalan or Fianchetto Gruenfeld.